

Canine SAR Defined

Searching for a missing human subject or reasonable part thereof. Body fluids, physical evidence, or weapons are not considered the subject of a valid mutual aid canine search and rescue mission.

Canine SAR Disciplines

TRAILING– Using a scent article, this canine follows the scent path of a specific individual (scent discriminate search dog). Typically used to determine direction of travel, or presence of missing subject.

WILDERNESS / AREA – These dogs find any live human subjects within their search area (not scent discriminate search dog). Typically used to search large areas of land for the presence of a live human subjects.

CADAVER / Human Remains Detection (HRD) – These dogs find any dead human subjects or disarticulated human remains within their search area (not scent discriminate search dog). Typically used to search large areas of land for the presence of human remains on the surface, hanging, or buried.

WATER – These dogs find any dead human subjects or disarticulated human remains submerged within their search area (not scent discriminate search dog). Typically used from a boat or the shore to search for the presence of submerged human remains in water (salt or freshwater).

AVALANCHE – These dogs find any humans buried under snow within their search area (not scent discriminate). Typically used to search avalanche debris flows for the presence of humans buried in snow.

DISASTER / US&R – These dogs find any live human subjects within their search area (not scent discriminate). Typically, used to search debris piles for the presence of live human subjects. *Note: these dogs are currently available through the Cal-EMA Fire Mutual Aid System or FEMA.*

Type 1 Extreme / Complex Terrain	Type 2 Rugged Terrain	Type 3 Moderate / Gentle Terrain	Type 4 Urban
Extreme conditions (including but not limited to) altitude (generally 7,000'+) or snow, ice, desert, heat, heavy ground cover, steep difficult terrain	Rugged conditions, altitude generally below 7,000', desert, heat, cold, moderate to heavy ground cover	Gently rolling terrain, open spaces, maintained trailheads, agricultural areas	High traffic, urban office complexes, man-made surfaces, public interaction and park trails

Canine Availability in State

	Trailing	Wilderness	Cadaver	Water	Avalanche
Del Norte		X	X		
Tehama		X	X		
Butte	X	X	X	X	
Nevada	X	X	X	X	X
Placer		X	X		X
El Dorado	X	X	X	X	
Sacramento		X	X		
Calaveras	X	X	X		X
Marin		X	X	X	
Alameda	X	X	X	X	
Santa Clara	X	X	X	X	
Santa Cruz		X			
Monterey	X	X			
Mono	X				X
Merced	X				
Inyo		X	X		
Monterey	X	X			
San Luis Obispo	X	X	X		
Kern		X			
Santa Barbara	X	X	X		
Los Angeles	X	X	X		
Orange	X	X	X		
San Bernardino		X	X		
Riverside	X				
San Diego	X	X	X		
CARDA WOOF / MBSD	X	X	X	X	X

Key Contacts

SAR Canine Mutual Aid Coordinator

Chris Boyer (925) 575-4496

alt. (925) 586-3357

Ben Ho (925) 787-7368

Cal-EMA SAR Dog Organizations

CARDA (510)868-4444 (opt. 1)

WOOF (through mutual aid coord.)

MBSD (831)566-6545

County SAR – call agency dispatch

CA State SAR Coordinator

Matt Scharper (559) 445-5674

Cal-EMA

Law Enforcement Division

Cal-EMA Law Division peace officers are available 24 hours/day to assist your department with search and rescue mutual aid planning and coordination.

3650 Schriever Ave.

Mather, CA 95655

(916) 845-8700

24-hr (916) 845-8911

